

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARIAL, USIA

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email to the USDA Webmaster

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Hi, I want to make a comment on the NAIS plan. The Web form to do this appears to be broken right now. I am a small farmer raising heritage breeds, and I hope the system will be flexible enough to make sure I can preserve my breeds in the event of a disease outbreak in the production breeds. For example, there might be a poultry disease that affects the Leghorns but that more hardy breeds would be immune to. I don't want to unnecessarily destroy birds that would not be affected by particular issues. Second, I would want the identification to be as low-cost and flexible as possible so it is not a big expense. The test exercises are also something that should not cost the farmers a lot of time and money. I'd like to see some rewards for farmers who keep their stock in good, thriving condition and use different breeding criteria besides production. Many animals are bred for the one trait that makes them more profitable, but leaves them open to disease issues that can affect humans. Hopefully the USDA can protect the public through not only identifying individual animals but also having some kind of reward system for producers who think more broadly about their breeding practices. Thanks for listening and good luck with the program.

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APHIS